And much of the best entertainment in L.A. is not in your tour guide

By HAL PHILLIPS

ANAHEIM — There should be no shortage of things to do when the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America isn’t conducting its trade show, banquets and education program. There’s nearby Disneyland, of course. And Hollywood. And Knotts Berry farm. Etc., etc., etc....

However, if you don’t want to trod the beaten path, Southern California boasts a long, long list of fun spots your travel agent probably didn’t mention. We at Golf Course News contacted numerous regional experts to compile the following rundown of restaurants, nightclubs and other exotic locales.

Don’t count on public transportation in the Los Angeles area. Rent a car — you’ll be glad you did.

Bennett looking to defend GCSAA title

By PETER BLAIS

Forget the oversized driver, long-shafted putter or sports psychologist. Defending GCSAA tournament champion Gary Bennett knows how to raise your game to the next level.

“T remarried a wonderful school teacher in August. I’ve only played three times since then. But I’ve shot par or better each time,” said the head superintendent at Crickentree Golf Club near Columbia, S.C.

Bennett has to be one of the favorites heading into this year’s GCSAA tourney in San Diego. Despite his low number of rounds played, Bennett’s confidence is high. That’s as it should be considering the scratch golfer’s five-stroke victory in last year’s 36-hole tournament played over Sawgrass Country Club and TPC at Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Bennett won his first crown even though he played with a broken finger.

“It just depends on who is playing well at the time. Confidence has a lot to do with it,” said Bennett, 44, who finished second in 1987 and in the top 10 every year he’s entered, except 1990.

This year’s tournament will be Jan. 23-24. The courses include Carlton Oaks Country Club, Eastlake Country Club, Mt. Woodson Country Club and Steele Canyon Golf Club.

Bennett looking to defend GCSAA title

Continued on page 20

Inside:

• Dinah Shore (above) is this year’s winner of the Old Tom Morris Award. For a complete listing of past winners, see page 21.
• Thumbnail sketches of this year’s candidates, page 19.
• For a complete schedule of this year’s seminars, turn to page 18.
• For coverage of the proposed bylaw amendments, see page 1. For views from our readership, turn to page 15.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Mr. Woodson CC is one of the four GCSAA tournament courses.

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**Bennett: 20 to 30 supers capable of winning GCSAA title**

Continued from page 17

Carlton Oaks and Steele Canyon will host the championship flight. Bennett believes 20 to 30 supers are capable of winning this year's event. Among his stiffest competitors, he believes, will be past champions Roger Null (1980, '83 and '90) of Norwood Hills Country Club in St. Louis; Dave Powell (1985, '88 and '89) of Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte, N.C.; Mike Apodaca (1982 and '87) of Tijeras Arroyo Golf Club in Albuquerque, N.M.; and Andy Campbell of Brook Valley Club in Hobe Sound, Fla.

Dave Powell (1985) of Brook Valley Country Club in Winterville, N.C. “The last three years he’s either tied or beat me in the team qualifying competition,” Bennett said.

Dick Stunz of Alvamar Country Club in Lawrence, Kan., was a sentimental choice mentioned by fellow competitors and others in the GCSAA hierarchy. “He’s been close several times,” said Dave Fears of nearby Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, Mo., a 14-handicapper, candidate for the board of directors and close friend, “It would be nice to see him win.”

Stuntz has a second-, third- and fourth-place finish to his credit, although his best shot resulted in a lower finish at Houston in 1988. “I had a four-shot lead with 11 holes to go. But, I absolutely collapsed. Everything that could go wrong did go wrong. A bunch of people went by me and Dave Powell won. I finished something like eighth. Just another disappointment,” he said.

Stuntz said there are too many good players to designate anyone as the favorite. The Iowa State University graduate likes his chances as much as anyone’s and has particularly fond memories of Carlton Oaks. “I played there 20 years ago. It was the only NCAA tournament I qualified for,” he said.

Past champion Oliver of Martin Downs Country Club in Hobe Sound, Fla., was particularly intrigued by last year’s runner-up, Jim Sparks of Champion Hills Club in Simpsonville, S.C. The 64-, 225-pounder “is a very long hitter who could do very well,” Oliver said.

Apparently, though, 1993 won’t be Sparks’ year. “I was busy with other things and forgot to send in my application,” said Sparks, who played in his first GCSAA tourney last year. “So I guess I won’t be playing.”

Oliver considers himself one of 10 players with a good chance of winning, even though course reconstruction work and building a new house have limited his play the past 12 months. He finished 5th last year and 12th the year before that. An eagle on the 14th at Palm Valley in Palm Desert, Calif., was the key to his 1986 victory.

“I shot par the rest of the way and some other people fell back. I won by one stroke, but didn’t know it until I was in the clubhouse,” he said.

**Newcomb awarded $2.5m for breach of Alaskan contract**

Continued from page 61

刷ion work were the cause of any maintenance problems. Boyne representatives claimed. Previous non-jury decisions favored The Golf Co., according to Boyne Chief Operating Officer Art Tebo.

“He built the course, but really never finished it,” Tebo said. “The jury was confused about the issues.”

Those issues centered around maintenance. Newcomb’s attorney said the company spent $195,000 annually operating the facility during the three years before Newcomb’s buyout option expired in May 1991. The next year maintenance costs jumped to $310,000.

The maintenance staff increased from 10 to 17 the year after Newcomb's option expired, the jury foreman told the Anchorage Daily News.

Boyne pledged the ruling will not affect golf course conditions. It will appeal if the judge does not overturn the jury decision, Tebo said.

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